



# ACU Widening Participation Strategy

# Widening participation for all

## Inclusion, empathy, dignity

Widening participation is integral to Australian Catholic University's (ACU) mission. Increasing opportunity and reducing disadvantage are key practical ways ACU lives our Catholic mission to promote the dignity of the human person and contribute to the common good.

We adopt an inclusive and innovative approach to widening participation that encompasses traditional equity groups, but also considers more holistic forms of disadvantage that transcend and transgress these groups.

### About widening participation at ACU

Our commitment to widening participation is founded in our Catholic traditions which drive us to create opportunity, foster innovation, embrace ethics and ultimately contribute to the dignity of the human person and the flourishing of society.

Central to this commitment is making higher education accessible to all. It inspires and compels us to work for the wellbeing of all persons, increase opportunity, remove disadvantage and help communities flourish.

An integrated, transformative and student-centred approach is required to take down these structural barriers to higher education. It starts with focusing on what's most important for the students; uncovering what empowers informed decisions; and to provide choices and opportunities for students to access, participate and succeed in higher education.

“[People] of every race, condition and age, since they enjoy the dignity of a human being, have an inalienable right to an education.”

Gravissimum educationis

# One goal, multiple outcomes.

**The ACU Widening Participation Strategy has one overarching goal. That is – to significantly reduce the barriers to attaining educational success at ACU.**

Research in the field as well as our own experiences tell us that if we can enable this across the institution, improved access, participation, retention, success and attainment are the natural and inevitable outcomes of our collective efforts. Therefore, the ACU Widening Participation Strategy focuses on addressing common barriers to higher education by embedding widening participation practices into ACU programs, processes, and pedagogy. We will action this by building on existing foundations and projects and strategies already underway. We aim to elevate our institutional awareness of widening participation, challenge our own pre-existing biases and design for inclusion in our practices and student experience.

## Reducing Institutional Barriers

**Implementing an institutional approach that enables educational success for all**



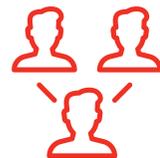
### Reducing Dispositional Barriers

Our approach acknowledges the challenges faced by learners allowing them to reach their full potential



### Reducing Educational Barriers

Facilitating educational success through widening participation practices, pedagogy and process

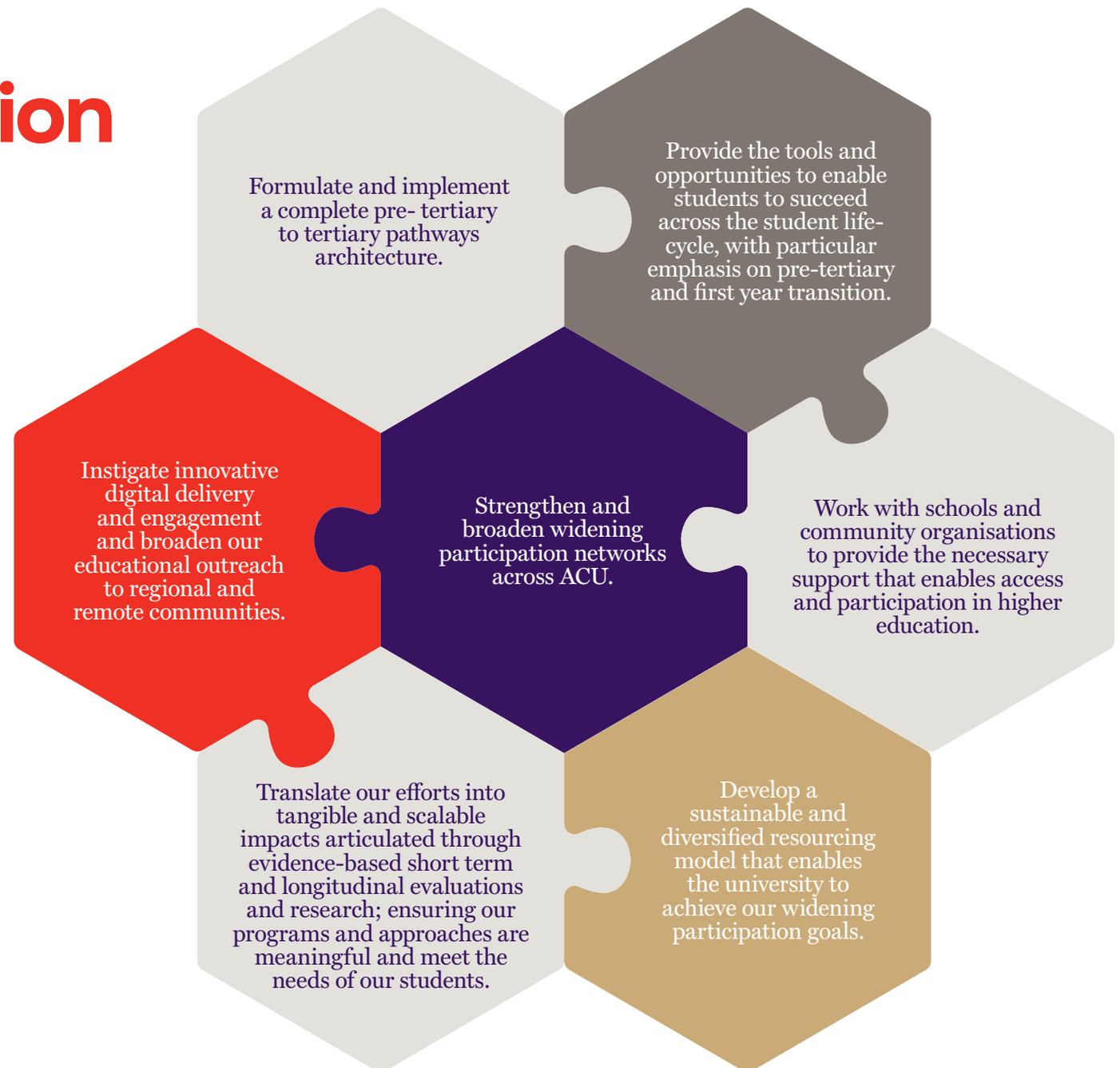


### Reducing Situational Barriers

Enabling full participation in higher education regardless of a learners life circumstances

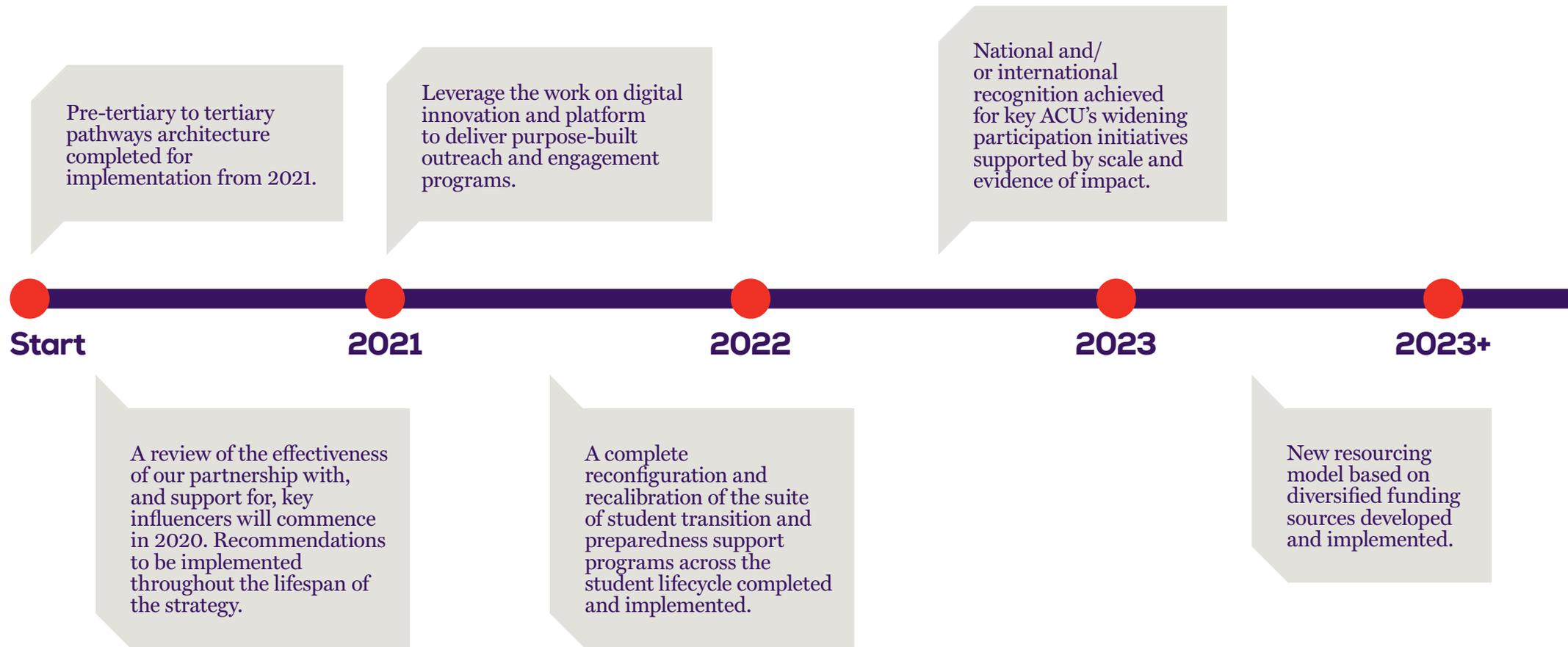
# Actions implementation roadmap

Key actions to reduce  
institutional, educational,  
dispositional and  
situational barriers



# Actions implementation roadmap

## Timeline and milestones



EQUITY PATHWAYS

[www.acu.edu.au/equitypathways](http://www.acu.edu.au/equitypathways)

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MELBOURNE

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